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Sources and Methods of Seeking Foster Homes Used by Seven Child Placing Agencies

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(Summary of a Field Study entitled "An Exploratory Survey of the Sources of Foster Homes and of the Methods of Seeking Foster Homes Used by Seven Child Placing Agencies of Chicago." This was made by Miss Meinzer between January and June, 1937, and submitted to the faculty of the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree.)

REALIZING that boarding children out in foster homes is a method of care which is being used more and more by various child welfare organizations throughout the country, a survey was conducted by the writer between January and June, 1937, in seven child placing agencies of Chicago, Illinois, with the objective of discovering, if possible, how and from what sources these agencies secured their foster home applicants. However, as the study progressed it became apparent that much of the information gathered would necessarily deal with the organization, methods, and procedures which had developed in each agency to carry on the foster home finding phase of their work and so this material also was incorporated into the study.

Only seven agencies were included in the survey, but an effort was made to have them as representative as possible. The following agencies were studied, some more thoroughly than others: Children's and Minor's Service, which is a relatively new, large, public, child placing organization, Joint Service Bureau Child Placing Division—a small colored agency, the Chicago Orphan Asylum—a private agency of high standards, the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, which is an old established, state-wide, private organization, and three sectarian agencies—the Lutheran Home Finding Society, the Catholic Home Bureau, and the Jewish Children's Bureau. Two separate methods of investigation were used. A list of twenty-four questions was compiled and copies mailed out to the various agencies. Then the writer interviewed either the executive of each organization,

the home finding supervisor or both on the basis of these questions. Following these interviews a study was made either of the card file of foster homes or of the foster home application blanks at all the societies except the Catholic Home Bureau and the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society. However, the same months could not be used in every case and this plus other differences, such as size and type of organization, made comparisons, except of a very general nature, unwise. In addition differences in the meaning given by the various agencies to certain terms, such as pending or rejected, made it difficult to find any common basis for classification of the applications to board children.

The first chapter of the study discusses the need of the agencies for boarding homes. All of them were interested in trying to discover new sources of foster home applicants and four of the executives specifically stated either that they did not receive a large enough number of requests to board children or not enough requests from the type of homes they needed. The general impression was that it was harder to secure homes for boys than for girls, but in at least two of the societies—the Chicago Orphan Asylum and the Jewish Children's Bureau—figures showed that they actually had a larger number of boys to place. There was also general agreement that it was fairly easy to place young children but difficult to get people to care for adolescents. The age group between five and ten was mentioned as the easiest group of all to place. Yet the figures from the special federal census on dependent children taken in 1933 showed that the large majority of these school-age children were still to be found in institutions.

The second chapter describes the application procedures that the various child placing agencies were using to handle their foster home applications at the time the study was made. Two—the Children's and

Minor's Service and the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society—believed in the need for a special home finding department. Three—the Jewish Children's Bureau, Chicago Orphan Asylum and Joint Service Bureau—upheld the merits of a special home finding supervisor, while the Catholic and Lutheran agencies saw no need for any specialization. The smaller agencies felt that a specific home finding division was unnecessary for them because of their smaller case load. In the larger agencies, although practical necessity had led them to establish regular home finding departments, there existed a conflict between the fear of overspecialization and the need to have the foster home applications investigated promptly and skillfully.

Various arrangements were made regarding the reception of foster home applications. Sometimes they were taken by an office clerk but more often the home finding supervisor or the head of the home finding department. Considerable emphasis was placed upon the desirability of having the applicant come to the office for a personal interview before any home visits were made. In this way they hoped to decrease somewhat the waste motion involved in selecting foster homes.

The decision to accept or reject a foster home was reached in different ways according to the organization under consideration. Some accepted a home only for a specific case and some accepted the home if it met certain standards, after which it was kept on file until needed. At the Chicago Orphan Asylum the acceptance of a foster home was decided upon by the worker who investigated the home and her supervisor, and was then passed upon by a committee composed of the executive of the agency, the visitor's supervisor and five members of the society's board. A staff committee passed upon each case at Joint Service Bureau, but at Children's and Minor's Service the staff committee passed upon doubtful cases only. Ordinarily the decision was reached by the visitor, her supervisor and the home finding supervisor. At the Catholic Home Bureau and the Lutheran Home Finding Society the decision was made by the supervisor and the worker while the supervisor alone decided at the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society.

The work of the home finding specialist or supervisor varied somewhat from one agency to another but in general her duties were to receive foster home applications, maintain a file of foster homes, and in general organize this phase of the work. The home finding specialist of the Jewish Children's Bureau had developed a technique of her own, useful in interviewing boarding home applicants.

An attempt was made to discover whether foster home applications appeared regularly or sporadically and if there was any noticeable seasonal trend. The figures seemed to show that such applications came in slowly but fairly regularly if no special drive was undertaken by the agency, but in most cases it was necessary to start these periodically, and whenever it was done a flood of applications followed which gradually dwindled until a fresh program was launched. Seasonal variation although it may have occurred was not definitely indicated.

The number of foster home applications received per month at each agency varied considerably as did the number received by a particular agency during the different months of the year. For example: the Chicago Orphan Asylum averaged about 35 foster home applicants a month during 1936, while the Jewish Children's Bureau averaged approximately 74 per month during the same year. Yet the Chicago Orphan Asylum received 21 such applications in November, 1936, and 79 in October, 1936, and the Jewish Children's Bureau received 50 in June, 1936, and 104 in January, 1936. Usually the months with the larger number of foster home applications could be accounted for by some particular activity of the agency but a certain amount of variation seemed to occur for reasons not readily apparent.

The third chapter describes the methods used by several agencies to stimulate foster home applications. The two outstanding types of activity in use at the time were some form of advertising, including the use of feature articles or news stories, and special appeals to foster parents already acquainted with the agency. Some of the organizations advertised only in religious publications. Addresses to club groups, such as the Parent Teachers' Associations, women's lodges and so forth, had not produced much response. Letters to ministers and notices in church bulletins had also been tried with little result. The Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society alone reported having used the radio as a means of publicity. Children's and Minor's Service had put out one or two circulars but it was difficult to measure the response from them. Probably they can best be used as an adjunct to public addresses and as an additional method of getting people acquainted with the agency. The Chicago Orphan Asylum, the only society of the seven which had experimented with posters, believed more could be done along this line. The Catholic Home Bureau interestingly enough reported that their parish priests were their best source of foster homes both in regard to quantity and quality.

(Continued on page 5)

News and Notes

Community Planning for Adoption Study

THE Social Planning Council of Atlanta, Georgia, of which Miss Rhoda Kaufman is Executive Secretary, has appointed a special committee in the family and child-caring divisions for the study of Adoption and Child Placement. This committee, of which Miss Florence van Sickler, Executive Secretary of the Child Welfare Association of Fulton and DeKalb Counties, Atlanta, is general chairman, is divided into three divisions:

1. Division of physicians, members appointed by the Fulton County Medical Association
2. Division of lawyers, members appointed by the Atlanta Bar Association
3. Division of social workers, members selected from the case working agencies of the Social Planning Council.

The social workers' division has studied a great number of cases of children placed for adoption, presented to them by the agencies. The cases were concerned with children placed by authorized agencies, as well as a great number placed and adopted through the efforts of private individuals, doctors, lawyers, and in many instances, hospitals.

After the presentation of these cases, the lawyers have been studying the adoption laws of Georgia, as well as those of other states, and have submitted their findings to the Children's Bureau in Washington, with the hope of presenting to the next Georgia Legislature a better adoption law.

Louisiana Reports New Legislation

A MODERN adoption law has been passed which gives jurisdiction for adoptions to the juvenile courts and places responsibility upon the State Department of Public Welfare for investigation of the home and supervision of the child in the foster home for one year before adoption becomes legal. To make this law effective a constitutional amendment was necessary to give the juvenile courts jurisdiction. This constitutional amendment was passed on November 9, 1938.

At the same session of the Legislature the old State Board of Charities and Corrections was abolished and the State Department of Public Welfare was given authority to "supervise and license" all institutions caring for children, all agencies placing children in foster homes, and all individuals dealing with children. To make this law effective it was also necessary to have a constitutional amendment abolishing

the State Board of Charities and Corrections. This too was passed on November 9, 1938.

The Councils of Social Agencies in New Orleans and Shreveport have been asked to have their Children's Divisions discuss and recommend procedure and standards for the State Department of Child Welfare in the supervision of institutions and of child placing.

Co-ordinated Council of Social Forces

IN OCTOBER of this year, a Co-ordinated Council of Social Forces was organized in Birmingham, Alabama. This brought together the following groups which had been working independently:

Social Workers' Club (which had functioned somewhat as a Council of Social Agencies)
Children's Committee of Jefferson County
Statistical and Research Committee of Jefferson County
Committee on Housing

It is hoped this will lead to a better interplay between the various social resources of the community.

Case Work Seminar

THE Smith College School for Social Work announces for the summer session a special seminar of two weeks on case work with parents and children to be given by Dr. Phyllis Blanchard and Miss Rose Green, both of the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic. This seminar will be limited to not more than twenty-five people. The School reserves the right to select candidates in order to get a homogeneous group, but would like to enroll at least fifteen workers from the children's field who are properly prepared both educationally and professionally.

Orthopsychiatric Conference

THE Sixteenth Annual Meeting of The American Orthopsychiatric Association, an organization for the study and treatment of behavior and its disorders, will be held at the Commodore Hotel, Lexington Avenue and 42nd Street, New York City, on February 23, 24 and 25, 1939. Further details of program may be secured from Dr. Norvelle C. LaMar, Secretary, 149 East 73rd Street, New York City.

National Conference of Social Work

THE Lafayette Hotel, Buffalo, New York, has been assigned as headquarters for the Child Welfare League during the session of the National Conference of Social Work, June 18-24, 1939. As many League meetings as possible will be assigned to this Hotel.

BULLETIN

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C. C. CARSTENS, Editor

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A State's Child Welfare Program

UNIFORMITY in child welfare programs in the various states is not desirable and would not be possible, even if it were desirable. The programs where such exist are in different stages of development. As a rule they must grow in an evolutionary way.

In spite of this diversity they show a similarity in certain essential elements which have been adopted in the various states so that they might be able to take advantage of the benefits coming from the federal social security legislation.

There seems to be an increasing recognition of the need of a department of public welfare, under varying titles. To function well it must have supervisory control of general relief, Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, Aid to Dependent Children, direct care of children, Child Welfare Services and all other work recognized as in the children's field and undertaken by the state and local units.

There are usually at least two divisions in a Department of Public Welfare, a Division of Public Assistance, including supervision of the first four services mentioned above, and a Division of Child Welfare, frequently called a Children's Bureau, including the supervision of the rest. In some states, Aid to Dependent Children is also included in the Children's Bureau at the state level. Direct care of children is often a function of the State Children's Bureau as is also the supervision of other organizations, public and private, caring for children.

The department of Public Welfare may have additional divisions for crippled children and for probation and parole. These may be included in the Children's Bureau or may stand alone as separate commissions. Some states besides having Departments of Public Welfare, have Boards of Control for the management of public welfare institutions. Where they are under the supervision of the former they may have separate executive or advisory boards.

For years there have been local administrative units in some of the states. In most of the states the county has served this purpose. The New England States are in this respect the great exceptions. The new federal legislation has given impetus to the establishment of administrative local units in most of the other states. Through such units the various social security services can reach the people from near at hand. And in turn reports from the local units may go by way of the state department to the Social Security Board regarding Public Assistance to the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, regarding Child Welfare Services and Crippled Children.

The pattern of the local units at present varies perhaps more than that of the state departments, but it is also showing tendencies to develop some uniformity.

A local board usually consists of five or more persons, who are unsalaried but to whom expenses of travel, and sometimes a per diem allowance are paid. Increasingly this board chooses a director and staff on the basis of a merit system. Usually a member of the county fiscal body is an ex-officio member. Sometimes the fiscal board appoints the whole County Welfare Board. Occasionally the appointment of at least one woman to the Board is obligatory.

In most states no formal separation of staff is made as between the services in assistance and in child welfare, but there is increasing recognition that at least one person is needed with training for those services requiring special child welfare skills.

While Aid to Dependent Children on the state level is usually under the same supervision as Aid to the Blind, Old Age Assistance and general relief, on the county level in some states, Aid to Dependent Children is administered by those having child welfare training. Although this is usually classed as family work, it is much more akin to Child Welfare Services than other forms of assistance.

The needs of children must be individualized and plans must be made for them and carefully followed. This is clearly impossible if the work is undertaken by those who work also with the aged and blind with heavy case-loads and who are at present unable to attempt but little besides relief-giving.

In general the local units in the various states are under the supervision of a field staff that must give general direction or advice on all the various services to be rendered in those units. Often these field supervisors are but slightly, if at all, trained or experienced in children's work. Nonetheless it is important that there should be but one supervisor going to the

local units on case work problems. To meet this situation, in some states a small number of child welfare consultants have been appointed who can be called into counsel on complicated questions, each consultant having a special field, such as adoption, home finding, juvenile court work, etc.

The large extension of public services to children through the social security legislation, wherever it is being carefully done, is making staffs and state and local boards aware of needs that they are alone unable to satisfy. For example, Child Welfare Services is finding the need of foster care for children in new areas which must be furnished by state or local funds, public or private, and through skilled staffs they often do not possess. Or again, in the work of Aid to Dependent Children, certain child welfare problems are found that aid in the home does not satisfy.

If a private service is available on a state-wide basis equipped with competent staff to meet special needs and to work in rural as well as urban areas, its work should be used by the public state or local units and is likely to prove most valuable. Often this can be undertaken only when the local public bodies will provide at least part of the expense. The fact that such an agency is available for skilled service is an asset to the whole state.

It is a far cry from the time when private agencies were attempting to do everything needful for children. Most private organizations have found their limitations. It is to be hoped that the public units will generally find they are not self-sufficient and more fully come to use the private organizations than is now the case. When that time comes, will the private children's institutions and private children's agencies have adapted their programs to meet new needs with competent staff and be ready to contribute their part to the more complete community plan for children made possible by the social security legislation?

—C. C. CARSTENS

Sources and Methods of Seeking Foster Homes Used by Seven Child Placing Agencies

(Continued from page 2)

Considerable thought had been put into developing the best methods of advertising. The news story was preferred to the block type of advertisement and the use of small local newspapers which reached the stable, moderate income group was held to bring better results than advertisements in the large city dailies.

Moreover, although the general impression was that the best quality of foster home is obtained through foster parents, yet the largest single group of boarding home applicants in the agencies studied probably had come through some form of advertisement. Of course, how much advertising, or indeed how much effort of any sort, is put forth to obtain foster homes, depends in the last analysis upon the amount of money which can be made available for this purpose. A warning note was also sounded to the effect that any type of appeal must be carefully guarded and that any method which is of a general interpretative and educational nature is more constructive in the long run than a direct appeal for homes.

In the fourth chapter is described the writer's effort to discover, by sampling the records, through what sources the foster home applicants reached the agencies and what disposition was made of these applications. Unfortunately the records gave the source of application in only a relatively small number of cases although this should be an important piece of information to any agency which desires to study its home finding work critically. The sources found include foster parents, foster home applicants still under investigation, references given by foster parents, advertisements, agency workers, referrals from other social agencies, wards of the agency—their relatives and friends, two club groups, a minister, two physicians and the telephone book. The heading, telephone book, simply means that in nearly every agency there were some applicants who merely looked up the agency in the telephone book and then applied. Although the list of sources is comparatively long, it should be noted that the two chief sources were advertisements and other foster parents. At the Jewish Children's Bureau, for example, out of 155 applications examined, 57 came as the result of an advertisement, 55 through foster parents, 21 were classified under hearsay, 11 were unknown and the other 11 were divided among seven separate sources, such as a club group, a physician, a social agency and so forth.

An investigation of the disposition made of the foster home applications studied revealed that the percentage of foster homes rejected varied considerably from one agency to another, depending to a large extent upon the standards of the agency and the relationship that existed between the total number of applications they had and the need which existed for homes. The Jewish Children's Bureau during the year 1936 accepted only 16 per cent of their foster home applicants and rejected or shelved 65 per cent, while 14 per cent were withdrawn and 4 per cent were pending. During the last five months of 1936 and

in February, 1937, the Chicago Orphan Asylum rejected 27 per cent, accepted 12 per cent, had 12 per cent withdrawn and 46 per cent pending, while 3 per cent were referred elsewhere. The pending applications at this agency meant that they had been partially investigated or at least were thought to have possibilities and so were maintained in the active file, to be investigated further for specific cases as the occasion arose. At Children's and Minor's Service during March and April, 1936, out of a total of 88 cases, 33 per cent were rejected, 33 per cent were accepted and 20 per cent were withdrawn. It is obvious that a great many homes are rejected by the agencies and a good deal of waste motion is involved in selecting foster homes, some of which undoubtedly could be avoided.

For the Jewish Children's Bureau and the Chicago Orphan Asylum it was possible to show the varying disposition of applications received through advertisements and through foster parents. At the Jewish Children's Bureau, 56 per cent of the foster home applications received through advertisements were rejected and about 9 per cent accepted, while among those received through foster parents 29 per cent were rejected and 15 per cent accepted. The total number of foster homes obtained through advertising at the Chicago Orphan Asylum was over twice the number obtained through foster parents, but the percentage of acceptances was three times as great among the homes received through foster parents. Moreover, the percentage of rejections among the applicants who appeared in response to advertising was over five times higher than the percentage of rejections in the other group.

An attempt was also made to discover what reasons were given at the various agencies for the rejection of foster home applicants and the comparative numbers rejected for each reason. The reasons for rejection run as follows: Too many in household besides immediate family; financial insecurity; lack of space; poor living conditions; poor health in the family; unsatisfactory neighborhood (area with high delinquency rate, poor housing, etc., or one where agency already had a large number of foster children under care and did not wish to place any more at this time); too far from Chicago; emotional factors (including prejudiced attitudes, emotional immaturity, etc.); age of applicants; active with another child placing agency; no affiliation with religious group whose homes agency uses; agency board rates too low, and so forth. Among the applications examined the same reason for rejection did not lead in every agency. Children's and Minor's Service re-

jected the largest number because of financial insecurity, but this reason ranked third at Chicago Orphan Asylum and sixth at Jewish Children's Bureau. The largest number of rejections occurred at the Chicago Orphan Asylum because the home was active with another child placing society and at the Jewish Children's Bureau because of the neighborhood where the family lived. Unfortunately, although this analysis is interesting, the number of cases involved is too small to make the figures very significant.

It should be noted, too, that as the agency technique becomes more refined the tendency is for an increasing number of applicants to be rejected for psychological reasons. Moreover, the problem of lack of space is one which is common to most urban areas where even the better type families live in small apartments. It also occurred to the writer while studying these figures that something could be done to decrease the number of non-Jewish applicants applying to Jewish agencies and also to cut down the proportion of homes offered which were located at a distance too far away for the agency to supervise adequately and so were automatically rejected. A better interpretation to the community of the standards and policies of each agency in regard to foster homes should help to clarify the situation.

To recapitulate, this study showed that there was a tendency, at least in Chicago, for foster parents to prefer girls to boys, that the preferred age group for foster children was from about five to ten, while the adolescent age, thirteen to twenty-one, was a serious problem to all child placing agencies. Moreover, although there was sometimes a lack of a sufficient number of foster homes, usually it was a lack of enough well-qualified foster parents which worried the agency executives. The writer has suggested in this regard that more adequate board rates and better recognition of the service of foster parents might induce a group of educated persons, such as married nurses and teachers, to undertake the work as a vocation which they could combine with their own home making.

Foster home finding is rapidly becoming a complex matter involving the use of the press and the radio, public speaking and education of the community. Imagination and persistence are needed to seek out and develop new sources of foster homes in every community. In spite of the fact that advertising, at least in the narrow sense of the term, is frowned upon by some social agencies, this survey showed that the largest proportion of new foster home applicants were secured by this means in four out of the seven agencies studied. Advertising of this type is,

however, being refined as a social work technique and pointed toward the desired results. The use of the news story and of the radio have interesting possibilities. This study showed, too, that the response obtained through addresses to club groups, notices in church bulletins, letters to ministers and physicians and other similar devices was disappointingly meager. It occurred to the writer, also, that more could be done by all types of social agencies to interest people in foster parenthood and in directing them into the proper channels.

The question was raised at all the agencies surveyed in Chicago as to what they thought of the possibility of establishing a central home finding unit which would serve all the child placing agencies and be managed by the entire group of agencies or by the Council of Social Agencies. The response was not very favorable. Four out of the seven agencies were opposed to the proposal at least for themselves, and the others were hesitant, although they could see a need for such a central home finding unit as it might avoid waste and duplication and also serve as a center of distribution for joint publicity of a general educational nature. The objections were that the smaller agencies might suffer, that it was important for each agency to maintain its own particular characteristics, that Jewish people might not realize they should apply to a non-sectarian agency, that it might interfere with the choice of the applicants and so forth. However, most of the agencies agreed that a central unit might be useful as a clearing house where a master file of all foster home applicants could be maintained. Actually a need for some plan is apparent. People apply to more than one agency at the same time, so that one agency already may have investigated and rejected the home without the second agency being aware of it. In either case there is duplication of effort and loss of time. This can and does occur as not all foster home applicants were registered with the Social Service Exchange in Chicago at the time of the survey.

The writer received the impression from her study that foster home finding is still in a rather confused state but that gradually it is becoming more scientific. The lack of statistical records on such points as how many foster home applications are received per month or per week or how many from a particular advertisement has so far not seemed very important to a functioning agency, but unless one wishes to waste both time and money it is necessary to know these things. Standardization of terminology would also be most helpful as a means of simplification and clarification of agency procedures. Yet in spite of this

feeling of confusion the survey left the writer in a most hopeful frame of mind because everyone of the seven agencies was aware of the problems involved in foster home finding and was sincerely eager to find some solution of them. With this attitude it would seem that better methods of foster home finding must necessarily follow since, as the old adage says, "Where there is a will there is also a way."

Information Service

THE most recent publication in this series of League special studies is entitled, "The Effect of Case Work Upon the Population of Children's Institutions." This has met with a most stimulating response in various parts of the country. It is of interest that The Duke Endowment in Charlotte, North Carolina, has considered the material of sufficient significance to warrant placing it in the hands of the Chairmen of the Boards of Trustees and Executives of the institutions which are assisted by the fund.

Two other issues are in preparation, one a study of foster parent education in various parts of the country; the other a resume of policies among some of our member agencies and Associates in regard to medical examination of foster parents and of institution staff members.

Further studies are projected, and as always we shall be grateful for suggestions of special topics which the membership would like to have given consideration.

The following is a list of special studies which have already been distributed by the League:

- Per Capita Costs and Methods for Determining Them
- Regarding Adoptions
- Regarding Foster Day Care
- Data on Salaries in Child Care Agencies and Institutions
- Data Regarding—Vacations, Sick Leave, Leave of Absence for Training, Use of Volunteers
- Compilation of Replies to Questionnaire on Medical Programs, Medical Records and Costs of Medical Care, with Comments
- Intake Service for Children's Agencies
- The Status of Housekeeper Service as Developed by Children's Agencies
- Isolation and Isolation Technique as Applied to Children in Foster Care
- The Interrelations of Public and Private Foster Care
- The Effect of Case Work Upon the Population of Children's Institutions.

Erratum

IN THE November, 1938, BULLETIN, please note in the article by Dr. Browne on "Raw Milk For Children?" the following should be inserted in the fourteenth line after the word "mastoid": "infections, scarlet fever, peritonitis, or any one of several other"

New Books to Lend

THE following books have been added to the lending library of the Child Welfare League of America. It is urged that advantage be taken of the loan privilege. A book may be borrowed by a member or Associate of the League for an initial two weeks, with the privilege of renewal for an additional two-weeks period, if desired. The only cost is postage on the return of the book.

- AMERICA ON RELIEF. By Marie Dresden Lane and Francis Steegmuller. Harcourt, Brace and Company, N. Y. 1938.
- AMERICAN YEAR BOOK FOR 1937, THE. Edited by Albert Bushnell Hart and William M. Schuyler. American Year Book Corporation, N. Y. 1938. (Published for Corporation by Thomas Nelson and Sons, N. Y.)
- BABIES ARE HUMAN BEINGS. By C. Anderson Aldrich and Mary M. Aldrich. The Macmillan Company, N. Y. 1938.
- CARE OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN. By Dr. Harry Lowenberg, Sr. McGraw-Hill, N. Y. 1938.
- CHILD AND THE STATE, THE. In two volumes: Vol. I—Apprenticeship and Child Labor; Vol. II—The Dependent and the Delinquent Child. By Grace Abbott. University of Chicago Press. 1938.
- DAY NURSERY, THE. By Ethel S. Beer. E. P. Dutton and Company, N. Y. 1938.
- FATHER MEETS SON. By J. P. McEvoy. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and New York. 1936-1937.
- FIVE SISTERS, THE—A STUDY OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY. By William E. Blatz, M.A., M.B., Ph.D. Wm. Morrow and Co., N. Y. 1938.
- FOUNDATIONS OF NUTRITION, THE. By Mary Swartz Rose. The Macmillan Company, N. Y. 1938.
- MEDICAL INFORMATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS. By Wm. M. Champion. Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md. 1938.
- MENTALLY ILL IN AMERICA, THE. By Albert Deutsch. Doubleday, Doran and Company, N. Y. 1937.
- MODERN WAYS WITH BABIES. By Elizabeth B. Hurlock, Ph.D. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and New York. 1937.
- NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK, PROCEEDINGS OF 64TH ANNUAL SESSION, INDIANAPOLIS, IND., 1937. Published for Conference by University of Chicago Press. 1937.
- NEW BABY, THE. By Evelyn S. Bell and Elizabeth Faragah. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and New York. 1938.
- PEDIATRICIAN IN SEARCH OF MENTAL HYGIENE, A. By Bronson Crothers. The Commonwealth Fund, N. Y. 1937.
- PSYCHOLOGY OF EARLY GROWTH, THE. By Arnold Gesell, Ph.D., M.D. and Sc.D., and Helen Thompson, Ph.D. The Macmillan Company, N. Y. 1938.
- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WORKER, THE. Russell H. Kurtz, Editor. The Russell Sage Foundation, N. Y. 1938.
- PUBLIC WELFARE ADMINISTRATION. By Marietta Stevenson, Ph.D. The Macmillan Company, N. Y. 1938.
- READING, WRITING AND SPEECH PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN. By Samuel Torrey Orton, M.D. W. W. Norton and Company, N. Y. 1937.
- SOCIAL AGENCY BOARDS AND HOW TO MAKE THEM EFFECTIVE. By Clarence King. Harper and Bros., N. Y. 1938.
- SOCIETY AND THE CHILD. By Edward N. Clopper. Richard G. Badger-Gorham Press, Boston, Mass. 1929.
- SOUTH ITALIAN FOLKWAYS IN EUROPE AND AMERICA. By Phyllis Williams. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn. 1938.
- SOUTHERNER DISCOVERS THE SOUTH, A. By Jonathan Daniels. The Macmillan Company, N. Y. 1938.
- STEP BY STEP IN SEX EDUCATION. By Dr. Edith Hale Swift. The Macmillan Company, N. Y. 1938.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WORK, REPORT OF THE. Published by the LePlay House Press, London, for the Conference. 1938.

UNTYING APRON STRINGS. By Helen Gibson Hogue. Character Associates, Inc., Chicago. 1936.

Activity in the Field of Children's Institutions

COMMUNITY programs for child welfare the country over are undergoing growth and progress in this era of rapid development of service which has come through the provisions of the Social Security Act. The children's institutions are perhaps feeling these stirrings toward growth more acutely than the placement agencies at this time. Institutions, so often the pioneer service to children, in many areas have lagged behind in the development of modern programs. There is now indication that many of the institutions are scrutinizing their programs in order that they may again step forward to participation or leadership in the children's field.

The Child Welfare League of America participates in much advisory work with children's institutions. During the past month we have been called upon to study the work of three children's institutions. In each instance the request was made by the Board of Managers who sought an evaluation of their program and suggestions of ways to put the institution's service in line with the changing community needs. These three institutions are the Rebecca Pomroy Home for Orphan Girls in Newton, Massachusetts, the Bangor Children's Home in Bangor, Maine, and the Strawbridge Home for Boys in Sykesville, Maryland. One of these is among the earliest child caring institutions in the country, another was developed in the reconstruction period following the Civil War, and the third had its inception in comparatively recent years.

In keeping with the League's interest in the development of the institutional field it has been made possible for Miss Foster of the staff to meet with the institutional group of the Children's Division of the Council of Social Agencies of Philadelphia at their one-day institute, and with the New Jersey Child Caring Group, Asbury Park, New Jersey, at an institute prior to their State Conference. Plans are under way for a two-day institute for institutional workers prior to the Child Welfare League's Southern Regional Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, in the spring. And again, Miss Foster is to give a course on the "Place of the Institution in a Modern Child Welfare Program" at the New York School of Social Work in the spring quarter.

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